

1 HB507
2 158647-1
3 By Representative Williams (P)
4 RFD: Education Policy
5 First Read: 18-FEB-14

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SYNOPSIS: Currently, there is not a state office designated as the office of the State Climatologist.

 This bill would establish the office of the State Climatologist.

 This bill would provide for the appointment of the State Climatologist, and provide for powers and duties of the office.

A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

To establish the office of the State Climatologist; to provide for the appointment of the state climatologist; and to provide for the powers and duties of the office.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. The office of State Climatologist is created within this state. The administrative and executive head of the office shall be known as the State Climatologist.

1 The President of the University of Alabama in Huntsville shall
2 appoint a person to serve as the State Climatologist and a
3 person as Assistant State Climatologist, each appointment
4 subject to the approval of the Governor, and shall fix the
5 salary of the State Climatologist and Assistant State
6 Climatologist. The State Climatologist shall serve at the will
7 of the appointing authority. Whenever a vacancy in either
8 office occurs, the vacancy shall be filled in a like manner as
9 the original appointment, and the tenure of office shall be at
10 the will of the appointing authority.

11 Section 2. (a) During their course of employment as
12 State Climatologist and Assistant State Climatologist under
13 the conditions set forth in this act, shall be permitted to
14 teach graduate or undergraduate courses at the University of
15 Alabama in Huntsville which are connected with or related to
16 the study of climatology or affiliated or associated subjects.

17 (b) The teaching of courses by the State
18 Climatologist and the Assistant State Climatologist shall be
19 permitted if the teaching duties do not unduly interfere with
20 their duties as State Climatologist and Assistant State
21 Climatologist.

22 (c) Teaching the courses shall be limited to courses
23 which require not more than an aggregate of six hours of
24 resident classroom teaching per week. The teaching shall be
25 permitted during regular scholastic terms, summer school
26 courses, or classes for special students as provided by the
27 curricula of the University of Alabama in Huntsville.

1 (d) The act of teaching by the State Climatologist
2 and the Assistant State Climatologist shall not entitle either
3 of them to participate as members or to enjoy the privileges
4 or benefits of membership of the Teachers' Retirement System
5 of Alabama.

6 Section 3. Subject to the provisions of the Merit
7 System, the State Climatologist may appoint, with the approval
8 of the Governor, assistants and with compensation as he or she
9 may deem necessary to the fulfillment of his or her duties as
10 set forth in Sections 4 and 5. The assistants shall devote
11 their entire time to the work of those duties, and no part of
12 the funds available to the State Climatologist shall be
13 expended for the salary or compensation in whole or in part of
14 any member of the teaching staff or other employee of the
15 University of Alabama in Huntsville.

16 Section 4. The State Climatologist shall assist the
17 state in understanding and responding to natural and
18 man-induced climate processes and their implications, shall
19 cooperate with the federal government in activities relating
20 to climate studies and advisory services, shall promote and
21 disseminate general knowledge of the climatology of the state,
22 shall establish a state climate program in accordance with the
23 provisions of the National Climate Program Act and regulations
24 promulgated pursuant to that act, shall seek and utilize
25 grants made available to the state pursuant to the provisions
26 of the National Climate Program Act and other grants, gifts,

1 donations, or bequests from any source to be used in carrying
2 out its purpose.

3 Section 5. (a) The duties of the State Climatologist
4 shall include, but not limited to, the following:

5 (1) Assessing the effect of climate on the natural
6 environment, agricultural production, land and natural
7 resources, and human health.

8 (2) Coordinating climate impact studies and programs
9 to improve understanding of climate processes, natural and
10 man-induced, and of the social and economic implications of
11 climate change.

12 (3) Developing methods and procedures to enable
13 interested state agencies and public institutions of higher
14 education to participate in the program.

15 (4) Disseminating climate data, information, advice,
16 and assessments to state agencies, local public bodies, and
17 the general public.

18 (5) Establishing an effective mechanism for
19 consultation and coordination with the federal government and
20 other states in climate related activities.

21 (6) Administering the state intergovernmental
22 climate program.

23 (b) In carrying out the responsibilities enumerated
24 in this section, the State Climatologist shall seek the
25 assistance of the Atmospheric Science Program at the
26 University of Alabama in Huntsville and other appropriate
27 agencies and facilities for scientific support.

1 Section 6. This act shall become effective on the
2 first day of the third month following its passage and
3 approval by the Governor, or its otherwise becoming law.